WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Integrated Development Package for the urban poor

*162. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has announced in October last in the meeting of the Central Council for Local Government and Urban Development the scheme of an integrated development package for the urban poor, the cost of which would be borne by both the Central and State Governments and local bodies; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With the assistance of UNICEF, and Urban Basic Services Scheme has been launched in the 7th Five Year plan with a view to providing basic services to the urban poor especially women and children by actively involving the community. Under this scheme a total of 59 districts have been proposed to be covered and UNICEF has pledged an assistance to the extent of 9.2 million U.S. Dollars. The cost of the project in the selected districts under this scheme would be borne by UNICEF, State Governments/Local Bodies and the Central Government in the ratio of 40:40:20.

Abolition of Rural Development Fu

*164. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that t Rural Development Fund is likely be abolished; and

(b) if so, what are the reaso therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULA CHANDRAKAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

Market study of various commoditi and agricultural products

*165. SHRI M. BASAVARAJU: W the Minister of AGRICULTURE pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Govern ment had undertaken market stuc of various commodities/agricultur products to advise the State Govern ment in the matter of planning their cropping pattern, in order safeguard the interests of the farmer and

(b) if so, what are the details the market study of various agricu tural products?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUL TURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a and (b) The Ministry of Agr culture undertakes market stud of agricultural products in order t develop policies to avoid exploitatio of the farmers by the middlemen an to get the best possible returns to th farmer. In the matter of planning t cropping pattern by farmers, th basis is mainly the techno-economi study made by the Indian Council o Agricultural Research, the Stat